Court, Virginia Gardens, or Windsor; and an afternoon of intellectual feasting on the works of art and nature, at either place, might have been brought to a close by an entertainment obtainable, I conceive, at a much more moderate cost than a London dinner and wine, railway included. Finding, however, that it was not entertained, and that a thorough London close-penned up aldermanic wine and dinner was decided to be, greatly fearing the results to health and comfort, I had the courage with some few others to decline the proposition."

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

It is proposed to erect public baths and washhouses at Grantham at a cost of 800*l*. ——At Lyme Regis a discovery of an ancient piece of stone architecture has lately been made in a house partially destroyed by fire a few months ago. It consists of a chimney-piece, of Ham-hill stone, with Norman mouldings: length, 8 feet 4 inches; extreme width, 9 feet 11 inches; thickness, 8 inches, standing on jambs 4 feet 2 inches high, 2 feet 2 inches wide and 8 inches thick; the weight of the whole chimney-piece being more than two tons. It was an arched fire-place, and the whole of this ancient piece of workmanship had been hid in contracting the aperture, the chimney-piece having been battened over, canvassed, and papered.——In the council at Worcester, last week, the mayor stated that the Treasury had decided on making a grant of 150*l*. a-year towards the school of design to be established there, besides some casts, books, &c.——The infant-school buildings at Studley were opened on Wednesday, in week before last.——Messrs. Dickson and Mackenzie, of Wellington, have obtained the contract for erecting new gas works for that town. There were several tenders, but that of Messrs. Dickson and Co. was the lowest, namely, 2,000*l*. The works are to be commenced forthwith, so as to be completed for lighting the town next autumn. The site is at no great distance from Mr Edwards's present gas works. The first stone has already been laid.——On Monday, in last week, the foundation-stone of the new Grammar-school at Lancaster was laid. The architect is Mr. Paley.——The Rodderup Fell Mining Company, at Leadgate, Alston, have erected spacious school buildings, which were opened on 1st inst. The buildings consist of a school-room capable of accommodating from 100 to 120 children, and a master's house.——The restoration of Sir John Barrow's monument, which was struck by lightning in January last, is now nearly completed at a cost of 120*l*., to be repaid by an entrance-fee to the tower and temple.——At the East Prince's-street Gardens, Edinburgh, operations are busily progressing. The stairs on each side of the Scott Monument to the south, which conduct to the road on the slopes, are nearly completed. A hall has just been built for the Philosophical Institution there at the back of their present premises in Queen-street, intended to serve as a reading-room and library. The apartment is seventy feet in length by thirty in width, and forty in height. It has an imitation oak roof, and is surrounded by a light gallery, supported by iron pillars. Light is supplied from the roof and large windows in the south end of the hall. The arrangements have been all carried out under the eye of Mr. Bryce, the architect, seconded in the mechanical part of the works by the builders, Messrs. Goodall and Sanderson.——There is now said to have been something "mysterious" in the fire at the Assembly-hall attributed to lightning. That the hall was struck by the electric force appears to be admitted, but one paper insists "that the fire in the hall preceded the lightning," and a correspondent suggests "that the fire may have been the proximate cause of the explosion of the thunder cloud, and that the current of heated air passing up the rain conducting pipe may have formed a railway for the lightning."——A new arcade is about to be built at Glasgow in a line with London-street, and confronting a new terrace in Bothwell-street, at Waterloo-street, just erected on a design by Mr. Kirkland, architect, of the Corinthian order of architecture, for Mr. James Scott, one of the Glasgow magistrates.——Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart has presented to the town council of Greenock, as representing the community, the valuable piece of ground, in the neighbourhood of the ancient mansion-house, known as Well Park. The ground is a perfect level, extending to about five acres, and has a fine soil. The conditions which Sir Michael attaches to the gift are enhancements of its value, as they include the preservation of the trees, and of the Old Well, from which the park derives its name. Sir Michael has also offered a large field in the east end of the town, for an experiment in the meantime, but if successful, as a free gift to the public, the condition being that the younger and operative branches of the community show a wish to enjoy themselves on the spot in out-of-door and manly sports.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.

Much has been said of late through the medium of your columns of the non-appreciation of the time and labour of architects by the public at large, and many complaints made of the paltry sums offered by art-patronising individuals for the remuneration of competing architects; but surely if they do not know their own dignity and the dignity of their profession, it is not so much to be wondered at that building committees should not appreciate the unremitting study or ingenuity of an architect, or offer a premium which they would not consider too much for a donation to one of their servants who had done them any little extra service.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of last Saturday:—

"To Parties about to Build.—An Architect will undertake the Design, Estimate, and Superintendence of any Class of Building at the *lowest!* per centage."

Now, Sir, whilst such things as this occur, I fear it will be useless for those devoted to the interests of the profession to attempt to give the public at large an adequate idea of the responsibility or duty of an architect, nor will any committee give to him that respect which is due to him as a member of the most important branch of the Fine Arts.

Observer.

PROJECTING EAVES OF COTTAGE ROOFS.

METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT.

Knowing you and all your London readers will be interested in a decision given by the official referees on Monday the 5th inst. I send you the particulars.

I have just built and covered in two semi-detached villas, at the Mount Eliot Estate, Lee Bridge, Blackheath. On the first house I had match-boarded the soffit of the projecting part of the roof, and screwed on an O G iron gutter, on the ends of the rafters over a deal fascia. This was objected to by Mr. Collis, the district surveyor, and in the next house, according to his direction, I substituted laths and cement. I may as well say here, the first house, in wood, cost 5*l*. 12*s*.; the last, in lath and cement, 5*l*. 11*s*.; so by adopting the very letter of the Buildings Act, I saved more than one-third. However, Mr. Collis felt himself bound to take me before the referees, and the case being called, I will state, as nearly as I can, what took place. When we were seated one of the referees addressed Mr. Collis in these words: "Mr. Collis, we understand, from very high authority, that a wooden cornice, or soffit, to a roof not hanging over the public way, is not contrary to the Act." Mr. Collis, who appeared completely astounded at this statement, said, "It is contrary to the wording of the Act." The referee: "Well, we understand not, and hope you will not bring any more such cases before us." Another referee, "Surely Mr. Collis does not wish to press this case, after what he has heard." Mr. Collis said, he did not, but still considered it "contrary to the Act." Mr. Collis declining to proceed, I addressed the referees thus: "Gentlemen, I thank you for the lenient decision you have come to in this case, and sincerely wish the Act had, in many other instances, been carried out in its true spirit, instead of insisting on its very letter. If such had been the case, I feel assured it would not have received the opposition it has done from the building branches in London." I enclose the papers as a guarantee of correctness. N.

*** This decision confirms Mr. Godwin's view of the question in the case "Delay and the District Surveyor of Kensington," reported and commented on in the Builder, vol. viii. p. 601, but on that occasion pronounced *against* by the referees, and we, in justice to ourselves, draw attention to it. Although the arguments used on that occasion were not admitted at the moment, they have germinated and produced fruit.

THE IMPERIAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AT ST. PETERSBURG.

The curiosity which was excited concerning this building by our recent notice, has led us to give illustrations of the Museum from Mr. Klenze's "Architectural Sketches." We have extracted part of the report, and have translated the explanation of the ground-plan given by M. Von Klenze. It was in the reign of Catherine II. of Russia, that collections of art were first thought of in St. Petersburg, and it was she also who caused the so-called *Ermitage* to be erected for their proper accommodation. In succession of time, however, these spaces became inadequate to the yearly increasing art-objects: besides, the tendency of the times enlarged arrangements mostly intended for show. Thus, a new building was willed by the present emperor, to which a visit to Munich in 1836, and the talents of M. Von Klenze, the builder of the Pynakotheka, paved the way. The projector and architect were fully aware, that a *fair* space, independently chosen in the west capital of Russia, would have answered best the claims of art; but weighty considerations prevailed in favour of the present site, which, however, was obtained by costly purchases, and demolitions of such buildings as the Palace Schippeloff, and even the Imperial library, treasury, stables, &c. It was thus, however, that a grand site was obtained, even in the most populous part of St. Petersburgh, bounded on the west by the Neva Quai, on the north by the Moika Canal, and whose east front forms part of the Great Million-street, while its south aspect is towards the "*Winter Palace.*" Nicolas had, besides, stipulated that the Art-Museum should communicate directly with the imperial residence; a desideratum also achieved by the choice of this locality. As, therefore, the Art-Museum was to form part, as it were, of the sovereign's *domaine*, part of the plan (the decorative), was given, while the other pole pointed to the proper light and appropriation of the objects exhibited. "As the style of the building was left to me, those, who have any insight in the essence of art, will be able to know that it was the principle of classic times (*Klassisches Kunstprincip*), and, therefore, the architectural style, *Kartharger*, which I chose. I did not, however, confine myself to that—pitiful to say,—*obtuse* imitation and inappropriate use of those few frames—which the barbarism of so many ages has left us, like the crumbs falling from the repast of a Lucullus or Apicius, and which poverty or ignorance gathers in its beggars' sacks, thinking that they could give us thus a glance of ancient splendours." According to the nature of the locality, the main front was to be placed east in the Great Million-street, quite appropriate, as its breadth here is 90 or 100 feet. The finest aspect, surely, is that towards the west, commanding the splendid quay and river of the Neva, and the plan has also been extended to this; but as this site is yet occupied by a building containing the greatest part of the Picture Gallery, they will have to be first removed to their place in the New Museum.

Our view shows *half* the elevation next the Canal. We shall give plan of the upper story and an interior view on another occasion.

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